

Refineries and Smog

Charges that nothing has been done to curb air pollution from oil refineries were refuted this week by an official of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District...

Reporting on the refinery's part in the serious problem of air pollution was Carl V. Kabter, district research engineer for the Air Pollution Control District. He pointed out that gasoline manufacturers were using electrical precipitators, scrubbers, baghouses,

fume burners, floating roofs, smokeless flares and absorption units, and various vapor recovery units in an effort to control the discharge of pollutants into the air from the complex refineries.

Cited by Kabter as a major accomplishment in the control of gasoline vapors was the passage of a regulation making it mandatory for all large gasoline storage tanks to have either a floating roof or a vapor recovery system. It has been estimated that the refineries will spend about \$8,000,000 to put this program into effect—and much of it had already been done.

Another V.A. Dividend

The Veterans Administration, which was still mailing out 1953 dividend checks in December, announced recently a new dividend payment to 5,000,000 veterans will begin in February. Despite the low cost of Government insurance to veterans the NSLI agency is accumulating large surplus sums and thus is able to pay sizeable annual dividends to millions of veterans.

Most of the dividends amount to about \$60, although they often run higher. The 1954 dividend is the third regular one paid out to National Service Life Insurance policy holders. The first was that of 1952, the second came in 1953 and the third begins in February. A large dividend, covering all the years since the end of World War II, was paid out prior to 1952. Regular dividends are distributed by the Veterans Administration throughout the year, the time of payment depending upon the original date the insurance policy went into effect. The VA said recently dividends on most of its policies were computed on a basis of 80 cents for each \$1,000 of insurance, per month. This average \$10,000 insurance policy, over a period of twelve months, would bring a dividend of approximately \$80.

It is estimated almost \$200,000,000 will be paid out in dividends next year. Though the average American is reluctant to see the Government in the private enterprise field, most of the 5,000,000 veterans enjoying cheap Government insurance and annual dividends are solidly in favor of the Government insurance program. There seems little hope that private business will ever get the Government out of the veterans' picture and certainly this is one way the nation's veterans can be remembered at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

U.M.T. Considered

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's commission on National Security Training has recommended a program of universal military training. Of course, this has been a hot issue before and the bill has always been defeated in Congress on past occasions.

Nevertheless, the commission headed by Julius Ochs Adler considered the question thoroughly in the interest of all the youth of the country and particularly the problem of a fair distribution of military obligations among the country's young men.

Many have long believed that it is basically wrong for this country to call upon some of its young men to serve and give up their lives, while other able men are never required to serve at all. No matter what the reason for his exemption, the young man who is fit and able, and who is not required to serve, is getting an unfair advantage over the man who must serve.

It has long been inconceivable to many Americans how Congress refuses to distribute the obligation of the country's young men fairly and impartially. It is also surprising to observe how many people have the idea that dodging military service is smart, or that they can do so and let others defend and even save the United States in an emergency.

Of course, the problem in Congress is accentuated because various private groups bring pressure to bear on Congressmen to vote against universal military training. There are always some religious groups, and groups composed of mothers who believe that their Johnny or Johnnie cannot serve without going to the dogs. This line has been thoroughly disproved by the examples of the country's millions of veterans of two world wars.

It should be remembered that when military training becomes universal, the same conditions will not attend military training which now attend it with a professional army and a draft only. Compulsory military training would mean that classes of boys, all of a certain age, would be sent in training at the same time and they would associate largely with young boys of their own age.

U.M.T. would furnish the country with a large supply of reserves, allow the standing military force to be reduced in strength and impose equal obligations on all the country's youth. No system could be fairer and the longer Congress delays passing such a program, the longer inequalities in our present setup will exist.

Gay Stamps Studied

Postmaster General Arthur A. Summerfield thinks that U.S. stamps may be behind the times. The idea is, according to the Postmaster General, to get more color into the stamps, in an effort to make them more attractive and colorful.

Blocking progress in this direction has been the fact that the Bureau of Printing and Engraving produces stamps by the hand-engraving process. This limits the number of colors which can be used. This method has been in use by the Bureau since 1847. Summerfield notes that many European countries are using a photo-engraving process to produce their stamps and that these stamps are highly colorful. He has asked the Bureau to look into the possibility of using this method.

We are not sure why stamps should be more colorful or whether any benefit would derive from such a change. However, if it is found that photo-engraving will produce more colorful stamps, and this system is put into operation, we suggest the same change in the coloring of paper money be studied.

Statehood for Hawaii

Recent developments have indicated that statehood for Hawaii is only a short period of time in the future. Senator Russell B. Long, Louisiana Democrat, has indicated he would support a bill in both the Senate Interior Committee and on the floor of the Senate.

Since Senator Long is a member of the Interior Committee, which held up a vote on the Hawaiian Statehood bill at the last session, his announcement is an important one. He voted at the last session in favor of further argument before the bill was reported to the Senate.

The question of statehood for Hawaii raises basic issues which the Congress has never yet dissolved. There has never been a state detached from the mainland in the history of the country. There is also the question where the process will stop if the United States begins to incorporate states in faraway areas into the United States. Admittedly, those in favor of statehood of Hawaii have put up a strong case, although the measure is not likely to be passed in the Senate without bitter opposition.

It is our belief that while Senator Long's recent announcement is significant, it does not necessarily insure success for the bill—as proponents are proclaiming. No doubt, the bill now has its best chance for passage in the last session of the eighty-third Congress. It could well be that the forty-eight states will be forty-nine before the year 1954 is ended.



Torrance Youth Air Views On Voting for 18-Yr-Olds

A week ago today, President Eisenhower told Congress and the nation in his State of the Union message that he thought 18-year-olds should be given the privilege of voting.

His comments on the subject have aroused nationwide interest in voting, and America is apparently divided into two factions on the subject today.

In an effort to find out how Torrance youth felt about the situation, Herald editors asked a number of young folks what they thought of the proposal.

Here are some of the answers: Tom Vanderpool, 17, 1015 Annapola Ave.—"If they're in high school and still running around, I don't think it's a good idea, but if they're in the service I think they should be able to vote. I don't feel that I could take the responsibility of voting this year, and I'll be 18 pretty soon." Don McLeod, 16, 3133 Willock Rd.—"Good deal, I think

it would go over big. Some 18-year-olds might not have sense enough, I think most of them do, but there are some exceptions in every case. I think 19 is a better age. They should be out of high school before they vote."

Jon Reed, 16, 3657 Emerald St.—"I don't think they should. Some are mature at that age and some aren't. I don't think I will be by the time I'm 18."

Gerald Bloomfield, 16, 1722 Wilkie Ave.—"Anybody that can go overseas and fight should be able to vote."

James Bald, 15, 17419 Della Ave.—"I think the same thing (as Bloomfield) but some 18-year-olds might just goof around and not vote. They might not think much about it at that age."

Judy Sebring, 17, 2726 Andree Ave.—"I think they should be given the right to vote."

Ronald Mather, 17, 2223-B Cabrillo Ave.—"If you're old enough to fight, you're old enough to vote. The only argument against it might be

that 18-year-olds may not have the common sense, or intelligence to vote wisely."

David Conry, 15, 2380 Leserman St.—"I like the idea. If you're old enough to be out of school, you're old enough to vote."

Barbara Underwood, 14, 1925 Gramery Ave.—"I don't know, I really don't know. But if I had the chance, I'd try to vote wisely."

Burt Smith, 18, 1303 Fern Ave.—"If there's a chance that you might get into the service, I think you should be able to vote."

Kent Jackson, 15, 8480 Del Amo — "Some are mature enough but some are too easily influenced to vote."

Richard McCormick, 15, 3819 W. 187th Pl.—"I think you're old enough to vote if you're old enough to give your life for your country."

Ronald Anderson, 15, 4431 W. 180th St.—"Yes. If you go to Korea before you can vote, you could get killed before you ever get a chance to vote."

Gaiety Keynotes English Holiday

LONDON — The past Christmas has been the best England had had for years. Any one you talk with in the streets here will tell you that. For the first time since the war they feel things are at last looking up. Meat, sugar, and fruit are plentiful and gone are the days when a ration book was the most prized possession.

Such things as a shortage of gasoline and of cars, of poked marked empty bomb lots, of hurt and fear and want, are things the British are at last glad to leave to the past. This past holiday season there was a feeling of gaiety and peace in London, and most important, a great hope for the future.

The same fighting spirit which kept the country going in its darkest hour continued to convince both young and old here that Britain will play leader in world affairs, that they themselves have the know-how and the ability to solve the present irritating problems.

As proof of this, the English point out that under Mr. Churchill's government the recovery of the country economically has been something slightly less than fabulous. It is amazing to think there was more food and goods in defeated Germany in 1947 than in victorious England in 1950. Now all that is changed and it is realized here that this is in the main because of American money and kindness.

Yet, in all such cases there is a tendency to bite the hand that feeds, thus while in one

breath many here say the United States has carried out the most unselfish acts in the history of the world, in the next they criticize our methods and our motives, they secretly resent the fact that we are big, that we are rich, and frankly that we are important.

So the conduct of our air men in this country comes up for some unkind comment, or our lack of culture is scored. But beneath it all they really do not mean it. The one big fact in world politics today is that both England and America need each other and know that each is the other's best friend.

The cockiness in evidence here Christmas was deserved. The last ten years have been unhappy, frugal, and uneasy. Englishmen are tired with the kind of tiredness that comes from years of struggle for existence in both peace and war, and now the prospect of another conflict has such horror for them that they are talking themselves into an atmosphere of peace, feverishly resisting the waves of unrest in Europe.

A little time to relax appears to be the general desire of all. While pay is low, the cost of food, gods and entertainment is equally low by our own standards. There are few unemployed and there has not been a major strike for some time. With a favorable bank balance of dollars now, Britons have literally not had it so good in the past three decades.

THE MAIL BOX

New Feature

Editor, The Torrance Herald

I rather recently had the pleasure of noting that your paper had instituted the policy of publishing an editorial page.

I think that this is a marked advance in the affairs of Torrance, as it reflects the growth of our City, and I am hopeful that you will continue this policy, as such should add immeasurably to the value of your paper.

With best wishes for your future success!  
JAMES M. HALL  
Attorney.

History Lessons

Editor, The Torrance Herald

I am a relative newcomer to Torrance and was especially pleased to read some of the history of the city in your special issue last fall.

Now your new feature on the editorial page called "In Times Gone By" adds more bits of information to the story of Torrance which I find very interesting.

Please keep it up.  
RALPH WITTER

Rabies Vaccine

Editor, Torrance Herald:

How about the city of Torrance doing something about getting an anti-rabies vaccine law for dogs?

The problem is not serious here, but if Los Angeles goes

ahead and adopts such a law this week, it would be only logical for cities surrounding the big city to adopt similar laws so the county would be fully covered.

I have two dogs and both have been inoculated against the disease. There is nothing to it. I hope Torrance will do something about this.

O. R. L.

Drinking Water

Editor, Torrance Herald:

I have read several articles in the Herald during the past months which deal with the issue of putting fluorides in our drinking water. I think your writer who did the stories did a good job digging up both sides of the controversial issue.

I for one hope the Torrance Council does not seriously entertain any thoughts about putting the chemical in our water supply here. If it is such a good thing for children's teeth, and it apparently is, why not just let the water superintendent bottle some special water which parents could pick up for their children. He has already said that could be done.

Congratulations on the new editorial page. My wife and I like it.  
ELMER MOREHOUSE

WASHINGTON NOTES

U. S. PAYROLL CUT

At the end of November, there were 2,365,600 civilians employed by the Government, a drop of 6,000 during the month and a net reduction of about 123,300 since Jan. 1, 1953, according to the Civil Service Commission.

POSTMASTERSHIPS

The Republicans plan to speed the filling of about 2,350 postmasterships now that Congress has resumed its sessions. According to a Postoffice Department official there are about

3,300 postmasters of all four classes to be named, with about 2,330 in the first three classes—the ones filled by presidential appointment with Senate confirmation. The fourth class posts are filled by the Department itself.

BRITISH PAY

Great Britain has paid more than \$138,000,000 on its debt to the United States since 1953 ended, according to the Treasury, which said the payments included \$119,836,250 principal and interest, at two per cent,

on a \$3,750,000,000 loan made in 1946; \$17,381,042 on the World War II lend-lease debt and \$1,336,754 on a debt for surplus war property.

U. S. ARMED FORCES

The armed forces of the United States—equipped with atomic weapons and backed by air power—are officially termed "the most powerful ever marshaled by this country short of war," in the opinion of Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, as recorded in his report to President Eisenhower.

NEW ANTI-TB DRUG

A new anti-tuberculosis drug, with a nickname of HES, looks promising as a treatment for the dread disease. HES stands for hydroxyethyl sulfone. Used in tandem with streptomycin, it seems to have some benefits over streptomycin alone, or streptomycin combined with another drug.

AIR FORCE ECONOMY

In a new economy move, more than 10,000 American airmen in Europe will be replaced by European civilians. The switch will free about \$36,000,000 for activation of new Air Force wings in the United States, according to the Air Force. A similar program reportedly will be carried out in the U. S. Far Eastern Air Force. In Europe, 10,562 airmen will be replaced by a total of 8611 civilians, with the remaining jobs eliminated. The average pay for these workers will be \$1500 a year, compared with more than twice that much for American airmen.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT BY FRANKLIN J. MENE Editor, American Peoples Encyclopedia. Includes illustrations of a helicopter and a train.

Strange Facts About Polio. MAN'S FIRST ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE COURSE OF A POLIO EPIDEMIC. Includes illustrations of children and a map.

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